NEXUS

HALLOWEEN and SENIOR FOOTBALL!

Nexus

Volume 4 No. 2

Editors
David Price–Senior Editor
Warren Valdmanis–Senior Editor
Prosanto Chaudhury–Production
Patrick McEntyre–Layout Editor

Writers
Neal Banerjee
Geoff Dowd
David Price
Prosanto Chaudhury
Matthew Pelton
J.S. Trzciencski
Warren Valdmanis

Science Notes
Mr. B. Moffat

Staff Advisors
Mr. G. Dowd
Mr. J. McMillan

Typists
Geoff Dowd
David Price
Warren Valdmanis
Prosanto Chaudhury
Jeff Scott

Cover
Mark Rusko

Cartoons
Nha Voduc
Ian Hodkinson
Warren Valdmanis

Printing
Mrs. C. Krushelnyski

Math
Mr. Lumsden

IN DEATH OF A SALESMAN, THE TRAGEDY OF COMMON MAN IS DESCRIBED THROUGH THE STORY OF WILLIE LOMAN'S GROWING OBSOLESCENCE IN A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD. THE READER IS PRESENTED WITH THE PATHETIC LIVES OF THE LOMAN FAMILY MEMBERS AND IS BROUGHT TO SYMPATHIZE WITH EACH OF THEIR FAILURES. UNLIKE CLASSICAL FORMS OF TRAGEDY, DEATH OF A SALESMAN EVOKES FEAR AND SADNESS IN THE READER BY PRESENTING PROBLEMS OF PERSONAL DIGNITY WHICH FACE EACH AND EVERY HUMAN BEING, AND ARE NOT CONFINED TO MEN OF HIGH STATUS. MILLER USES A VARIETY OF STRATEGIES IN GETTING THE READER TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PLIGHT OF WILLIE, THE PLAY'S TRAGIC HERO. PERHAPS THE MOST STIRRING OF THESE STRATEGIES IS THE DESCRIPTION OF WILLIE'S INCREASING MENTAL INCAPACITY. AS WILLIE'S SITUATION BECOMES MORE AND MORE

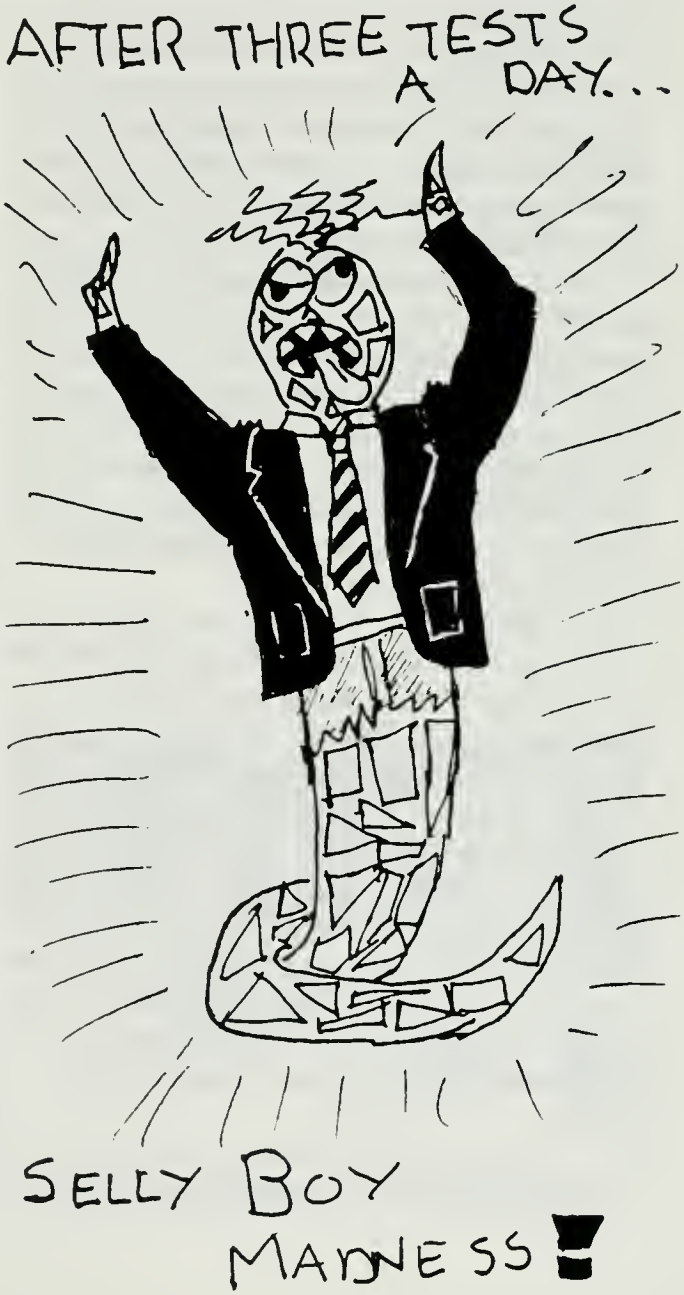
EDITORIAL

Multi-what?!

In a recent *Maclean's* article it was said that Canada had moved away from its British roots and towards a multicultural, multi-racial society. The truth of this statement cannot be doubted but the bias of the article towards such a policy is disturbing. Is the world really destined to become one big melting pot? The definition of Canadian culture as being multicultural implies that there is no native, Canadian culture. The very term culture has become synonymous with Greek restaurants, French cafes and other "exotic" institutions. English Canadians can enjoy these cultures but have renounced their own culture in the form of repatriating the constitution. Now they are "multicultural". On the French Canadian side the same is true. Even Montreal, the centre of Francophone culture, prides itself on being cosmopolitan and multicultural. We seem to have given up our proverbial search for identity and given in to the hordes from the East, West and South. Why are we so keen to fill up our empty land with hundreds of different cultures? Are Bob and Doug Mackenzie, Kodiaks, hockey and good beer not good enough?

The intent of this editorial is not racist. There is a need to question what Caribbean, Oriental and East Indian cultures are doing in subzero temperatures. When Mackenzie King said," the people of Canada do not wish as a result of immigration to make a fundamental alteration in the character of our population," he was not being racist. He was expressing a desire to protect Canada's distinct existence. Unfortunately the people of Canada (or enough of them) have changed their minds and have decided that Canada should mirror the racial make-up of the globe.

At the same time we must recognize other cultures' sovereignty on their own ground. Efforts of cultural colonization are just as wrong. Every country has the right, indeed the obligation to restrict the flow of immigrants. In our zeal for equality and fairness we seem to have forgotten that. The much talked about global citizenship does not as yet exist. Our desire to be fair has just sold out our distinct Canuck culture.



ESSAYS

The Decline and Fall of the T.V. Empire

Since the invention of television, there has always been a faction who feels that T.V. is a great evil which exists only to spread propaganda and lies, and to subvert children. Never has this been as true as it is now. The day of semi-decent programming is long gone.

We used to be able to sit down in front of the T.V. and lose ourselves in the action, the plots, and sometimes even the acting which glowed on the screen before us. Most shows today have bad plots, worse scripts, and even worse acting.

A typical evening begins with the news, followed by a choice of "Wheel of Fortune" or "Jeopardy!" Next in the 8 o'clock slot lies "Rescue 911," a pathetic attempt at reconstructing actual emergencies. This choice show lowers T.V. into depths where no one has gone before, and is somewhat appropriately hosted by William Shatner (aka Captain Kirk).

To add to our misery, no decent new shows are being created to replace the old ones. The viewer is being treated to a slew of new sitcoms which run for just one or two seasons. The hour long adventure/mystery seems doomed to die a slow painful death. Shows like "MacGyver" and "Murder, She Wrote" were great at first, but after all these years original plots are hard to come by. The only new series of this genre are "Quantum Leap" and "Star Trek: the Next Generation." Both of these have been around for two or three seasons and are total disasters.

And we, the viewers, what can we do? The answer is quite simply nothing. We are being held hostage by the networks. Time and time again we turn off the tube in disgust, vowing to read or do work. Each time, however, we go back to the T.V. and watch those shows we despise because we are addicted to T.V., and we know that there is nothing we can do to stop the networks. And, knowing this, the networks feel free to do whatever they please. Goodbye, fellow hostages. I've got to hurry or I'll miss Captain Picard.

Prosanto Chaudhury

Room 101

Twenty-five years ago the provincial government gave birth to the Ministry of Education, which now celebrates its silver anniversary with various activities conceived by its many fonctionnaires. These tireless men and women, in offices and with contracts that Winston Smith couldn't dream of, have concocted significant ways to mark this event. For example, teachers with 25 or more years experience will receive a signed letter of congratulations from Claude Ryan, a minister dedicated to the idea of democracy in education, if not in linguistic policy. The Ministry of Education (MEQ) has published a glossy document called "Education in Québec: A Progress Report", which reminds us how much better off we are these days. Did you know that the average number of 15-year-olds attending school has increased from 74.6 to 90 percent? That over 12.6% of total student enrollment have "learning or adjustment difficulties"? That (most impressive of all) many more students than in years past receive their secondary school diplomas? We now approach that golden country where over 70 % of teachers in Québec have at least 16 years schooling. Let the bells

ring, the banners fly. At least let's release bio-degradeable balloons from the Westmount bowling green, the attached messages proclaiming our joy at missing classes to celebrate how much better we're becoming. Progress!

The reality, however, is that our schools (public and private) have suffered more than gained from the MEQ's zealous paternalism. The Régime Pedagogique, the MEQ's master plan for "democratizing" education, in fact reduces many programmes to accommodate the lowest common denominator. Schools in any region, theoretically, teach the same courses united by common objectives the province has set. No matter that these objectives often reflect the personal biases of the few people assigned to construct each course. No matter that these objectives are usually phrased in the worst possible jargon (English Objective #5a: "The student will show the ability to understand an oral, written, or visual discourse by responding to a specific discourse in terms of the communication process."). We will learn. We will enjoy ourselves.

Perhaps the reason so many more students now receive a diploma is that the criteria used to judge success and matriculation are minimal. Statisticians in Québec City may delight in their logical graphs that demonstrate we are improving ourselves as a nation (oops, province). What if half the province cannot pass the Histoire Nationale course? Why, scale the marks. What if many Secondary III (Newspeak for Grade 9) students can't pass the Québec/Canada geography course? Why, make it optional. We're concerned about math, aren't we? Well, let's design a course that anyone who breathes can pass. Push 'em on, push 'em on, waaaay on! Ignore the bleating protests of college teachers who must instruct increasingly ill-prepared students! What do they know of a bold future in which we will all play video games designed in Québec?

The parochialism that the Quiet Revolution of the 60's aimed to eliminate is resurrected in disguise. Instead of the Catholic church setting Québec's educational agenda, the MEQ is now having its turn at social engineering. Compulsory courses exist in dance, music, art, home economics, moral instruction, career education, and many other areas to which the well rounded voting citizen of tomorrow will need exposure. This cornucopia of disparate courses and good intentions, though, ignores the logical conclusion that schools—even if we call them comprehensive—cannot be everything to everyone. Less can and should be more.

The MEQ has spent millions on slick publications to convince us all about how bright our futures look thanks to its 25 years of firm guidance. Perhaps they might do well, when the next milestone is reached, to read their own course guide for Ecology, a compulsory Secondary I course that reminds us not to waste paper. We can safely assume, though, that the MEQ (led by a new, improved, matriculated EduCzar) will recycle its tributes to itself.

Geoff Dowd

Nexus Staff Finally Given Recognition

Boycott Shell

A small, yellow sheet of paper posted in our History Room orders us to "Boycott Shell." We are told that it is an evil corporation–it operates in South Africa, fueling the "apartheid machine." Why, it even sells its product indiscriminately to the government of this racist régime. So don't support this horrible corporate monster. "Don't Shell out for apartheid!" Boycott Shell.

A nice, noble cause. And, of course, we are opposed to the chauvinist principles of apartheid. But is this movement serving any real purpose? Can a group of angry, righteously indignant Canadians naming themselves "Boycott Shell" make any real difference in another country on another continent?

Consider for a moment the effect that the poster will actually have. A small group of students who, occasionally, buy gasoline from Shell stations, will notice this poster and will perhaps give it a second glance. But what will it really do to them? Can you honestly believe that they will go to a different service station the next time they want to fill up because of a little poster they happened to look over before settling down for Mr. Glaude's history class? It doesn't matter to them. But, perhaps, there are a few brave souls left, who will stage their own quiet, little boycott against Shell. So what? They're digging a tunnel with a teaspoon–by attacking, individually, this monolith of a company. This piece of paper will bring about no real change.

But, to put on an optimistic appearance, to believe that man is really good at heart and that we can really make a change, let us suppose for a minute that "Boycott Shell" really could stage an effective boycott. And that this will actually harm Shell financially. and that the corporation is frightened enough to break its South African ties. Then what? Perhaps a dent is made in the country's economy. Perhaps this hurts the government. Perhaps this even hurts the people. So what? What's the difference?

Yes, in a way, South African racism is an official business. Apartheid is a government policy, and the superiority of whites is propagated by the leaders. But, more than this, apartheid is a state of mind. More than the government, the South African white people believe in race superiority. Racism is not something affected by economic cuts. It is a faith, a belief held as strongly and as indignantly as our belief in its evil. And financial changes, no matter how severe, do little to change faiths people have held all their lives.

Matthew Pelton

"Welcome to the Jungle"

In a decade in which culture has been confined solely to the inside of yogurt containers, we're fortunate to have survived with any sense of taste and decency, and geometry and theology. While the "Bugs Bunny-Road Runner Show" still exists, and the Grateful Dead still tour, time is running out. Soon even these examples of good taste will fall prey to the modern consumer machine.

The 80's have made things worse. For instance, the decade which did away with disco, has replaced the music of the "Staying Alive" generation with something even more atrocious: music or sounds

known as techno-pop. Techno-pop, a mixture of musak and drum machines, reflects both the intellectual and artistic ability of its sidewalk scum producers and listeners. And this offense is only the tip of the iceberg.

Since the turn of the century, musical taste has gone from Mozart to Miami Sound Machine, and in literature, from Shakespeare to Dr. Seuss. A recent poll indicated that four out of five teenagers feel that Green Eggs and Ham is of more literary importance than Hamlet. Our century has commited various atrocities ranging from Nazi physical genocide to mental genocide at the hands of pop culture. In just twenty years, Woodstock has faded into the Monsters of Rock, we've lost free love and flower power and gained a love for power tools, and our kids heroes, instead of being civil rights activists are now crack dealers, gang leaders, and Guns and Roses.

So welcome to the jungle. Welcome to the last remaining jungle; the concrete jungle, green only with society's envy of the ill-compiled wealth of disgusted Philistines like Bobby Brown and his record producer, Kid Video, and Bill Cosby, formerly the hero of Fat Albert and now the sell-out from the Cosby Show.

A decade in which cartoons like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are not only aired but have cereals named after them somehow evokes the sacking of Rome. This time, however, it is not the Vandals dealing the death blow to civilization, it's the Pepsi Generation. An eternal Dark Age is dawning.

If you couldn't handle the 80's, it's time to grab the Wagner records, a few good books, and hide. The 90's promise to be much worse. Hide like a monk but don't look forward to a Renaissance.

Warren Valdmanis

B.S. From J.S

Welcome to my article! Each Nexus I'll be focusing mainly on Quebec politics, but sometimes, just for fun, I'll take a step back and comment on any national issue that seems to warrant discussion. But politics! You want 'em, we got 'em! Hoo-boy, do we ever! Let's start, shall we?

The abortion question certainly looms over many of the heads of our leaders today. Mr. Bourassa is one of them, and he...BWAH-HA-HA! You actually thought I was going to go through with this? C'mon! You must not know me too well. I like rock music, for gosh' sakes. I live on the West Island. I have even been known to read the occasional comic book. And you thought I was going to talk about politics? Sheesh? I mean, the first paragraph should have given it away.

So, you might be saying to yourself "Gosh, what a neat-o article so far!", or "Wow, I'm sure getting my money's worth outta this Nexus!" But I sincerely doubt it. What will I be writing about, you ask? Golly, you're sure full of questions aren't you? Consider this column the jelly doughnut of articles - mighty tasty, but not much substance. Consider it a safari into the unknown. Let me be your guide for this fun tour, why don't 'cha? Then again, what choice do you have? BWAH-HA-HA? Anyway, let me say this: journalism is really loads of fun, and it can start right here, with your very own school newspaper. Personally, I think having your own article is the next best thing to having your own television show. But I digress. Ouch!

In the last issue of Nexus, I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was a "Videos" section. I love videos. Honest, I do. The thought of having reviews in this newsazine tickled me pink – what a nifty idea! I sure hoped this feature would be presented again in this issue! But I got to thinking-

why hope? Why not make my own reviews? That way, I'd be sure to see some in print no matter what. Oh boy!

As I entered my local video store blindfolded (I had to be impartial in my selections), somewhere on earth a child was born. I groped about for several minutes, and after choosing five different videos, I went home. I sat back in my easy chair, popped the first cassette in the VCR, and watched...

Slaughterhouse

This was a fun little piece of fluff, with good special fx and an award-winning cast. it did get somewhat tedious after the first hour, but what the hey. This is the kind of movie you'd want to rent for the kids if you want to keep 'em quiet as you're doing that Chem lab. Good, wholesome stuff.

The Care Bears Movie

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN!!! should be labelled all over this puppy. I don't know if I spent more time with my eyes closed or open during this gorefest. Some maniac gets out of hand, and those bloodthirsty grizzlies go out to set him straight. Slice! Dice! Chop! Just thinking about this one gives me the willies. Brrrrr.

Comic Relief II

This video has "thriller" written all over it. I was on the edge of my seat SO often, I fell off twice! If action-packed adventure is what you go for, look no further! The stuntmen they must have used for this one–oh gosh, the stuntmen! You think Indiana Jones movies can't be topped? Hah! You obviously haven't seen this baby.

Super Mario Bros II

Ummm... Well, how could I know!?!! I mean, so many of these video stores carry these Nintendo games nowadays! And I was blindfolded. Anyhow, if it was a movie, I'm sure it would be very good.

?????????

Heh. At the cash I was told I couldn't take this one. I thought I had felt myself pass through a curtain as I was groping about. Check back with me in two years, and I'll tell you about this sizzler.

So there it is. My video reviews. Pretty gnarly, huh? One more thing before we go...a quiz! Today we'll deal with a band that's close to the hearts of many of you. You think you know Guns 'n Roses? Hoo-hah! Think again! Here's a question for youse to wrestle with...what's Axl Rose's real name? Easy, you say? Weh-ell...what's Slash's, then? What's Izzy Stradlin's? What was G n' R's first British single? Its B side? Stumped? Fear not, O frantic ones. The answers are...naah! I'll keep you in suspenders 'til the next ish (I'm such a devil).

There you have it. I betcha knew this wasn't going to be about politics, all along. My article is over.Excelsior!

J. S. Trzcienski

HEARD IN THE HALLS

"Nobody can lose as easily as I can."
–Mr. Moffat on suicide chess

"At the [Selwyn] dance who do you dance with...other boys?"
–Theodore Nanidis

"I'm pleased as punch."
–Mr. Williams

"I don't understand. Do lost kids phone in?"
–Mr. Wearing on the Childfind Telethon

"OK!....OKOKOK..OKOK...OK,OK!"
-Mr Litvack

"By in large"
-Mr. Nicoll

"I need a pizza and a pillow!"
-Rick Poejo

"School is a part of nothing"
-Rick Poejo

NEAL SAYS

The Lost Season

"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

–Tennyson

We had come so close - up to the goal line (some say over it) - and yet had been so far. Walking off the field, some had to fight back tears because we all knew that despite our efforts, we would only be playing one more game wearing the uniforms that we had grown to love - GRYPHONS. After a fairly successful season with a disappointing end last year, the Senior Football team won its first game and then proceeded to lose its next five games, four of which were league games. The fifth loss, on Friday the 13, was one of two must-win games for The Team. So what happened?

Well for anyone ignorant enough to even suggest that it was the coaching, NEAL SAYS "Get with the program, you big fag!" We have five (5) very experienced and knowledgeable football minds working with us. For those of you who think athletic skill was basically not a standard feature on The Team, well, you're all very cool. Besides (as an entire team) lacking (until we had dug ourselves in a hole) unity as well as (at times) confidence, which is something that cannot be written about, only experienced, The Team lacked POLISH.

It has been said by many wise football coaches that practice makes polish. As controversial as this may seem to many of you who seem to enjoy ripping my articles apart, let us assume that this radical idea, for the sake of argument, is true. Hypothetically, then, should one not expect an LCC team,

five (5) times a week, that had had thirty-six practices before playing us to be a tad more polished than The Team, practicing three (3) time a week (if we were lucky) and starting two (2) or three (3) weeks later, with a grand total of , drum roll please, thirteen (13) complete practices ,fourteen (14) if you count the Stratford trip getaway the Tens took. THIRTEEN!!!!!!!! Mike Ditka's staff wouldn't have made a difference! All we had to our advantage was Selwyn House heart, but at times it was just too bloody physched out or relaxed to show us through.

"I didn't play football to lose," I once told some friends, so when our last game comes up in a couple of weeks I'll be ready to retire a winner. No playoffs, no other great games this season, just one, in an attempt to salvage what is left of The Lost Season.

Neal Banerjee

SCIENCE NOTES

Ponderables

"Children and folks of the non-Celtic world will not realize that, on October 31, when they are celebrating Halloween they will be observing Samhain, a Celtic feast day marking the Celtic New Year's Eve. // Because for Celts the world over, the date is not just Halloween it is the beginning of their New Year--November 1 to October 31. // In Celtic lore, the feast day of Samhain marked the time when the barriers between human kind and the supernatural were lowered, a time when the powerful forces of the 'otherworld' were let loose and became visible. // The basis of the Celtic 'out with the old and in with the new' belief was that darkness came before sunlight, night gives birth to day, summer grows out of winter. So the year begins with winter. This ancient feast has passed into modern times as Halloween. /.../ The six Celtic nations are: Ireland (Eire); Scotland (Alba); Isle of Man (Mannin); Wales (Cymru); Cornwall (Kernow) and Brittany (Breizh)."

Editorial, Irish Herald (San Francisco), October, 1988

"The last day of 1987 was one second longer than usual. A leap second was introduced to compensate atomic clocks for irregularities in Earth's rotation. Thus the final minute of New Year's Eve was 61 seconds long. The last leap second was on June 30, 1985."

--Sky & Telescope, December, 1987

"The earliest September equinox since 1897 occurred at 3:29 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday [September 22, 1987] when the sun passed southward across the celestial equator. This marked the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and the start of spring south of the equator. The trend toward an earlier equinox is due to the insertion of leap year days and will continue until the year 2100, when leap year will be skipped."
--Steve Newman, San Francisco Chronicle, 24 September, 1988

"Today marks the start of the Year of the Serpent, the lunar new year marks the lunar new year celebration for the year 4687 according to the ancient Chinese calendar."

--Harriet Chiang,
San Francisco Chronicle,
February, 1989

Amnesty International

"Thousands of people are in prison because of their beliefs. Many are held without charge or trial. Torture and the death penalty are widespread. In many countries men, women, and children have 'disappeared' after being taken into official custody. Still others have been put to death without any pretence of legality: selected and killed by governments and their agents.

These abuses - taking place in countries of widely differing ideologies - demand an international response. The protection of human rights is a universal responsibility, transcending the boundaries of nation, race and ideology. This is the fundamental belief upon which the work of Amnesty International is based."
[Amnesty International (pamphlet)]

What is Amnesty International?

"Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of volunteers who work for human rights. The organization has no connection with any government, political group, ideology, economic interest or religious creed.

The activities of Amnesty International focus on prisoners, in particular of 'prisoners of conscience'. These are people who are being detained because of their beliefs or their origins. None of them has used or has called for violence.

Amnesty International asks three simple questions of governments everywhere:

=> Will you free the prisoners of conscience held in your jails?

=> Will you give your political prisoners fair and early trials?

=> Will you stop the torture and killing of prisoners?"

[Refugees - How Amnesty International Can Help (pamphlet)]

Selwyn House School has an official youth/campus network group (Y212); all that is needed now is members (SHS students like you!). If you are interested in any aspect of Amnesty International or the work that we do, don't hesitate to ask questions of me. I urge you to take part. The results, you will find, are heartwarming:

"I experienced the blessing of your appeal, for you have raised your voice in the defence of my son... Amnesty International is a light in our time, particularly for those on whose eyes darkness has fallen, when the prison doors close behind them. By your selfless work this light shines on the ever-widening circle of those who need it."

-Father of Prisoner of Conscience (son was imprisoned in an Eastern European country arrested after collecting signatures calling for the release of political prisoners)

Michael Echenberg, 10C

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

-- Three wheeler Honda ATC 200X. An excellent trail bike with excellent power handling.

-- A Honda XR80R motorcylce. Perfect bike for those who are getting started riding a motorcycle.

-- Remote control car. Javelin/ Optima with gun remote, belt/chain drive assembly, three motors, MOSFET speed control, several sets of tires, AC/DC 15 minute batter charger, three batteries, gold shock absorbers, and much more!

Prices are to be negotiated. Call 739-6923 and ask for RUDY JR. if planning on buying anything. You can find me at E2 in the morning or at third lunch.

PUZZLES

Correct Answers From Last Issue

1) 91 squares (36+25+16+9+4+1)

2) 8 is the 200th digit because $5/27 = 0,\overline{185}$

4)Using } y= 1/5x
y= -1/2x +15} as the (system of) equations of the guy wires, then y=42/7m

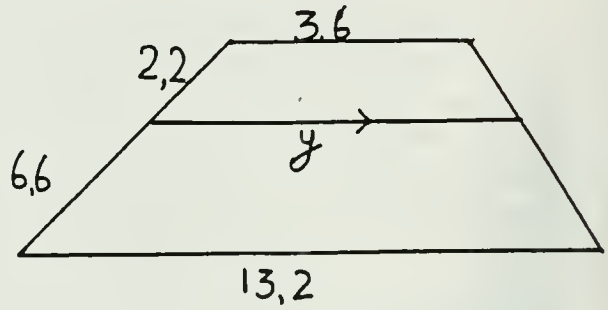
The prize winners are:
Jonathan Taylor (10C)
Sauntam Saxena (8A)

Submit answers to this issue's puzzles to Mr Lumsden in the Math Department Office.

1) A bathtub empties at a uniform rate (let us assume) in 15 minutes. With the plug in, it can be filled in 12 minutes. How long will it take to fill the tub with the plug removed and the tap turned on?

2) Determine the value of y in diagram 1.1

Diagram 1.1

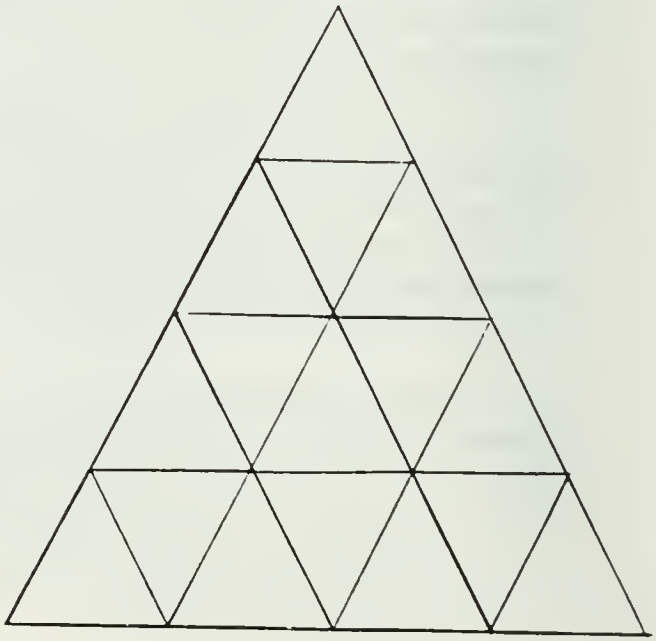


3) a) Take the product of any 4 consecutive integers then add one. What type of number (integer) is your answer?

b)Show that this result is generally true.

4) How many equilateral triangles are there in diagram 1.2?

Diagram 1.2



WHO IS THIS MAN?